1. A method of activating a smart card, comprising:

receiving identifying information for a non-activated smart card;

receiving manual authentication information for user to whom the

non-activated smart card has been issued;

authenticating the user and the non-activated smart card using the

identifying information and the manual authentication information;

obtaining a public key from the non-activated smart card; and

issuing a digital certificate that is generated using the public key,

wherein the non-activated smart cart is activated upon receiving the digital

certificate.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the manual

authentication information comprises a user identifier and a password.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the smart card is

connected to a workstation.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the digital

certificate is stored in at least one of the activated smart card and a

workstation.

6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a login request that is initiated when the activated smart

card is connected to a workstation;

authenticating the activated smart card using the digital certificate;

and

if authenticated, permitting a login to a computer resource.

7.   The method according to claim 6, wherein the activated smart card is removed from the workstation after it is authenticated.

8.   The method according to claim 6, wherein authenticating the activated smart card further comprises determining that the digital certificate has not been revoked.

9.   A method of activating a smart card, comprising:

sending, to an administration server, identifying information read from a non-activated smart card;

sending, to the administration server, manual authentication information input by a user to whom the non-activated smart card has been issued;

generating a public key using the non-activated smart card;

sending the public key to the administration server; and

receiving a digital certificate that is generated using the public key, wherein the non-activated smart card is activated upon receipt of the digital certificate.

10.   The method according to claim 9, wherein the manual authentication information comprises a user identifier and a password.

12.   The method according to claim 9, wherein the smart card is

connected to a workstation.

13. The method according to claim 9, further comprising storing the digital certificate in at least one of the activated smart card and a workstation.

14. The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

connecting the activated smart card to a workstation;

sending a login request to a server that authenticates the digital certificate against a certificate revocation list; and

if authenticated, permitting a login to a computer resource.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the activated smart card is removed from the workstation after the digital certificate is sent.

16. The method according to claim 14, wherein the server determines that the digital certificate has not been revoked.

23. A method of activating then using a smart card, comprising:

on first use of the smart card:

receiving identifying information for a non-activated smart card;

receiving manual identification information for a user to whom the non-activated smart card has been issued;

authenticating the user and the non-activated smart card using the manual authentication information and the identifying

information;

obtaining a public key from the non-activated smart card; and

sending a digital certificate generated using the public key

from a certificate authority to the non-activated smart card, wherein

the non-activated smart card is activated upon receiving the digital

certificate; and

on a subsequent use of the smart card:

receiving a login request that is initiated when the activated

smart card is connected to a workstation;

authenticating the digital certificate against a certificate

revocation list to determine that the digital certificate has not been

revoked; and

if authenticated, permitting a login to a computer resource.

24.   The method according to claim 23, wherein the activated smart

card is connected to a workstation and removed from the workstation after

it is authenticated.

25.   The method according to claim 23, wherein the digital

certificate is stored in at least one of the activated smart card and a

workstation.